

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 OMB-01 OC-05 CCO-00

A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 DHA-02 SCCT-01 IO-10 AID-05 /092 W

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O R 151555Z AUG 75

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3996

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

CINCLANT NORFOLK VA

CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 1160

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINS MILI AO

SUBJECT: ROUNDUP, AUGUST 15

1. DESPITE THE FACT THAT TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS ARE OUT BETWEEN LUANDA AND MOST OF THE REST OF ANGOLA, EMPLOYEES OF THE GOVERNMENT TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH ENTERPRISE IN LUANDA AND THE RESTINGA NEIGHBORHOOD OF LOBITO TALKED WITH EACH OTHER ON THE MORNING OF AUGUST 15. THE LUANDA EMPLOYEE TOLD ME THAT THE PORT AND THE CENTER OF THE CITY WERE QUIET AND THAT FIGHTING CONTINUES ON THE HILL-SIDES AND IN THE POORER DISTRICTS OUTSIDE THE CITY. BOTH UNITA AND MPLA CLAIM TO HAVE THE UPPER HAND, BUT SOURCES IN THE PORTUGUESE HIGH COMMAND HERE TOLD ME THAT AS OF THE MORNING OF THE FIFTEENTH MPLA APPEARED TO BE GAINING GROUND. NO ARMED CONFRONTATIONS WERE REPORTED FROM OTHER CITIES.

2. I HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO TALK WITH ACTING HIGH COMMISSIONER

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GENERAL MACEDO ABOUT HIS ASSUMPTION OF THE DUTIES OF THE PRESID-

ENTIAL COUNCIL BECAUSE HE HAS BEEN CLOSTED MOST OF THE DAY WITH SENIOR MILITARY OFFICERS TO TRY AND DECIDE UPON COURSES OF ACTION. AT THIS WRITING, 1600 HOURS, AUGUST 15, THEY ARE STILL IN SESSION. NOW THAT THE PORTUGUESE HAVE TAKEN BACK THE REINS OF GOVERNMENT, MODERATES AND LEFTISTS IN THE MILITARY ARE DEEPLY DIVIDED ON THE ISSUE OF THE STRATEGY THAT SHOULD BE ADOPTED AND ON THE ISSUE OF WHETHER MACEDO SHOULD HAVE TAKEN THE ACTION HE DID. HIS DECISION WAS PRECEDED BY INTENSIVE TELEPHONIC CONSULTATIONS WITH LISBON. ON THREE OCCASIONS ON AUGUST 13 WHEN I WAS TALKING WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS AT THE PALACE, THE OVERSEAS OPERATOR BROKE IN WITH RUGENT CALLS FROM LISBON.

3. MPLA REACTED TO THE ACTING HIGH COMMISSIONER'S DECISION WITH GREAT INDIGNATION. AN MPLA POLITICAL BUREAU COMMUNIQUE READ BY PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL MEMBER LOPO DE NASCIMENTO SAID THAT THE MPLA MEMBER OF THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT HAVE REMAINED AT THEIR POSTS AND HAVE DONE NOTHING TO BLOCK THE FUNCTIONING OF THE GOVERNMENT. UNITA AND FNLA BROUGHT ON THE PRESENT CRISIS: FNLA BY DECLARING WAR ON THE MPLA AND REFUSING TO PARTICIPATE IN CABINET MEETINGS, THEREBY MAKING ITSELF INELIGIBLE TO CONTINUE IN THE TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT; AND UNITA BY PROHIBITING ITS REPRESENTATIVES FROM PARTICIPATING IN CABINET MEETINGS AND REJECTING ALL CONTACT WITH THE PORTUGUESE EXCEPT THROUGH THEIR PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL MEMBER, JOSE N'DELE. THE MPLA MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT ARE THE ONLY ONES TO CONTINUE IN THEIR POSTS AND MPLA IS THE ONLY MOVEMENT THAT HAS NOT DENOUNCED THE AGREEMENTS IT HAS SIGNED. IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES, MPLA DOES NOT CONSIDER ITSELF INCLUDED IN THE TERMS OF THE COMMUNIQUE ISSUED BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER, WHICH DOES NOT SPECIFY WHICH MOVEMENTS HAVE ABANDONED THE GOVERNMENT. THE MPLA FEELS EVEN MORE STRONGLY THAT ITS MEMBER OF THE PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL DOES NOT FALL WITHIN THE PURVIEW OF THE DOCUMENT BECAUSE HE HAS REMAINED AT HIS POST. THE MPLA DECLARES THAT IT WILL NOT ABDICATE THE RESPONSIBILITIES IT HAS ASSUMED BEFORE THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE AND THAT IT WILL CONTINUE EXERCISE ITS GOVERNMENTAL FUNCTIONS.

4. SINCE REPORTING THE PRESENCE OF SOUTH AFRICAN TROOPS WELL INSIDE ANGOLAN TERRITORY I HAVE LEARNED FROM ANOTHER SOURCE THAT THE TROOPS EITHER ESCORTED SOUTH AFRICAN TECHNICIANS TO THE DAM SITES AND STOOD BY WHILE THEY DID THEIR WORK, OR CAME IN TO
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ESCORT THEM OUT. ACCORDING TO THIS SOURCE, THE SOUTH AFRICANS ARE NOT OCCUPYING ANGOLAN TERRITORY, BUT ARE PERFORMING ESCORT DUTIES IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY CONSTITUTED AUTHORITY.

5. ACCORDING TO THE COMMANDO COMMANDER, THE COMMANDER OF COPLAD, COLONEL ALMENDRA, WILL RETURN TO ANGOLA ON AUGUST 15 AND HIGH COMMISSIONER GENERAL CARDOSO MAY BE BACK WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS. SOURCES IN THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE REFUSED TO

COMMENT TO ME ON EITHER ITEM.

KILLORAN

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